

Andaleeve Partho denied bail, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of Bangladesh Jatiyo Party (Manzu) Chairman Andaleeve Rahman Partho and sent him to jail in a case filed over vandalising and setting Setu Bhaban in Dhaka on fire on July 18.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rashidul Alam passed the order after Abu Sayeed Miah, an inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police and also the investigation officer in the case, produced him before it on completion of his three-day remand in the case.

The court, however, directed the jail authorities to provide him with first class division in jail as per the Jail Code after his lawyer submitted another petition in this regard.

In the forwarding report, the IO said Partho gave important information about the incident which was being verified. So the IO appealed to the court to confine him to jail until the investigation is completed.

While the defence submitted an application seeking bail for Partho on grounds that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically.

Moreover, another accused garment exporter KM Rezaul Hasanat David, also chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group, was earlier granted bail in the case. So, his bail petition should be granted.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Stop mass arrests, release students'

Artists, people join together in protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds gathered in front of Dhanmondi's Abahoni field yesterday as part of a demonstration organised by Gonohotya O Nipronbirodhi Shilpi Shomaj (Artists Against Genocide and Oppression).

The event saw a diverse group of artists rallying against what they claim is "mass murder of protesters and continued oppression of the youth".

The protesting artists presented three key demands: halting the mass arrest of protesting students and common people and releasing all detained protesters, restoring normalcy and freeing educational institutions from the control of law enforcement agencies and ruling party affiliates, and the immediate resignation of the government for the deaths of the protesters.

They also carried various anti-government placards and red cards.

The gloomy weather and heavy rain did not stop them from raging on.

Artist Shaon Chishti said, "We are displaying red cards to express our distrust of the dictatorship and our support for the masses."

The demonstration began with group painting sessions, where artists depicted protest scenes on red canvases.

This was followed by a street drama titled "Astha-Onastha (Trust-Distrust)," illustrating the brutal reality of law enforcement agencies shooting protesting students, many of whom were children.

The performance drew numerous passers-by who spontaneously joined the demonstration.

Following the drama, artists and attendees

formed a long human chain, chanting slogans against state persecution of young protesters.

An emotional moment ensued when the names of those killed by law enforcers were announced, with the crowd shouting, "I am present, we are present."

Artists recounted the circumstances of each victim's death, leading many participants to break into tears while shouting slogans like "Down with the Dictatorship" and "Distrust the Dictator, Trust in the People."

Singers and poets performed protest songs and poems, expressing solidarity with the student protesters.

Several participants delivered speeches, including rights activist and author Rehnuma Ahmed, who said, "The regime has not published the actual number of people they have killed yet. So far we have learned about

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'At least 32 children killed in violence'

Says Unicef regional director for South Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanjay Wijesekera, Unicef regional director for South Asia, recently visited Bangladesh for a week, where he observed the ongoing violence and mass arrests.

After returning to Kathmandu, Nepal, he issued a statement based on his observations on the situation.

"I am deeply concerned about the impact of recent violence and ongoing unrest on children. Unicef has now confirmed that at least 32 children were killed during July's protests, with many more injured and detained. This is a terrible loss. Unicef condemns all acts of violence. I extend my heartfelt

In my meetings with [the] government..., I emphasised that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the right of children to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly. Children and young people are the future of Bangladesh. They should be protected when they speak up.

condolences to families mourning the loss of their sons and daughters. Children must be protected at all times. That is everyone's responsibility," read the statement.

"I am [also] aware of reports that children are being detained, and remind authorities that for a child, coming into contact or conflict with the law can be very frightening. In line with international human rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Bangladesh is signatory, and based on research into the effects of detention on

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MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

A 25-year-old student shot dead in Uttara. A 38-year-old office assistant died from bullet wounds in Mirpur. A 22-year-old employee fatally shot in Narayanganj. A 19-year-old student shot dead in Mohammadpur. Another student gunned down in Chattogram. At least 202 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters during the recent unrest. But these victims are not just statistics; they are sons, husbands, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of five such names among these tragic numbers. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.



A promising life cut short by bullet

Mugdho, 25, died after getting shot in the head

MASHFIQ MIZAN

Water, water, who needs water?

In a video shared on social media by Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdho, his twin brother Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho, 25, was seen distributing water to protesters after law enforcers fired teargas shells to disperse them in Azampur of Uttara on July 18.

Merely 15 minutes later, he was gone. A bullet hit his forehead and pierced through his right ear after law enforcers opened fire.

He was already dead when his friends brought him to Crescent Hospital.

"Babumoshai, zindagi badi honi chahiye, lambi nahi" was the caption of his profile picture on Facebook. It can be roughly translated to -- life should be meaningful, not long.

Mugdho did live a meaningful life.

He joined the protest on July 18 to help students, who he believed were fighting for a just cause, said his elder brother Mir Mahmudur Rahman Deepto.

From a young age, Mugdho always spoke up against injustice. He was a unit leader in the Armed Police Battalion Scout group and achieved the "National Service Award" from Bangladesh Scouts for his role in rescuing and evacuating people during the 2019 Banani fire, Deepto added.

After completing his undergraduate degree in the Mathematics department

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They shot my son in the chest

Says mother of Palash, 38, who was killed in Mirpur 10

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Firoz Talukdar Palash, 38, an office assistant of a chemical company in Dhaka's Mirpur 12, left his rented house on July 19 to go to Tangail.

It was Friday, so his office was closed, allowing him a brief scope to visit his mother in Ghatandi village under Tangail's Bhuanpur upazila.

He phoned his mother and said, "Ma, ami ber hoyecchi (Mother, I am on the way)".

Soon afterwards on the way, he found himself in the middle of a clash between protesters and police in Mirpur 10, where he was hit by a bullet in his chest.

Some people took him to a private hospital nearby, where doctor declared him dead.

Informed about her son's demise, a bewildered Benu Begum immediately called her son's wife, Reshma, who went to the hospital and identified the body.

Palash's body was taken to the family's home in Tangail on the same night, and was buried there on the next day.

Reshma later returned to Dhaka with their seven-year-old daughter a few days after Palash's burial, said relatives.

This correspondent visited the family in Ghatandi village recently.

The family lives in a dilapidated tinshed house.

Benu Begum, still shell shocked after her only son's death, was seen looking blankly at Palash's photo while tear rolled down her cheeks.

"My son called me and said 'Mother,

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My son hasn't called me. He never will...

Says mother of 22-year-old Rabbi who died after being shot in Narayanganj

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

Rabbi Miah, 22, was the brightest hope for his family.

Hailing from the impoverished Panchashi village in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, Rabbi was steadily carving a path to a better future. His father, Abdur Rahim, a rickshaw-puller, struggled to afford the education of his two sons.

Despite these hardships, Rabbi's older brother, Antor Miah, had recently completed his post-graduation in political science and was actively seeking a government job. To support the family, he taught at an English-medium school in Dhaka's Gulshan area.

Rabbi was also contributing to the family while pursuing his own dreams. He worked as a junior officer at Walton Base Point in Narayanganj and was a second-year Electrical and Electronics Engineering student at Southeast University. With aspirations of studying abroad, he was preparing for the IELTS exam.

The two brothers had come so far, driven by their hard work, dedication, and the shared hope of lifting their family out of poverty.

However, on July 20, that hope was extinguished by a bullet.

Rabbi was at his home on the fourth floor of a building in Painadi Natun

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Police killed my brother. Should we go to them for justice?

Asks sister of 19-year-old Soikot who was shot in Mohammadpur

MD ABBAS

On July 19, Mahamudur Rahman Soikot, 19, was shot in the head when law enforcers opened fire to disperse quota reform protesters on Mohammadpur's Nurjahan Road.

Since that day, Soikot's father has been a familiar figure on Nurjahan Road, often seen standing silently at the spot where his son fell.

The place where Soikot's body once lay in a pool of blood has become a site of silent mourning for a father who can find no words to express his grief.

He stands there, day after day, lost in the memories of his beloved son, as the city moves around him.

"My father now frequently visits the place where Soikot was shot and stands there," said Sabrina Afroz Sabonti, Soikot's sister.

After offering Juma prayers on July 19, Soikot went to open their family's confectionery shop.

His father was away in their native village, Sandwip, leaving Soikot in charge.

Shortly after opening the shop, he returned home and informed his mother, who was in the midst of her prayers, that he had closed the shop because one of his friends had sustained a bullet injury.

"He left the house immediately to

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He aspired to be a teacher

Says sister of Wasim who died during clashes in port city

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

"My brother had aspirations to become a teacher, and was working hard with his studies and preparations for the job. But a bullet took his life..." said Shabrina Yasmin, sister of Mohammad Wasim Akram.

Wasim, a third-year student of the social science department of Chittagong College, died after coming in the line of fire during a clash of protesters demanding quota reform in government jobs with activists of Jubo League and Chhatra League, in Muradpur area of Chattogram city on July 16.

Hailing from South Mehernama area under Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar, Wasim was second of five siblings. His father, Shafiul Alam, and elder brother, Arshad Alam, live and work in Saudi Arabia.

They could not see his face for the last time as they are abroad.

"My brother loved me a lot. He used to study from a hostel in Chattogram city since 2019, and visited the family in the village once a month," said Shabrina, a 10th grader at a local school in Pekua upazila.

During a visit to their house, this correspondent saw Wasim's mother Josna Begum holding his portrait. She kept asking who killed her son.

His uncle Zainal Abedin said she was not in a state to talk to anyone.

"The family's financial condition is not good. Wasim's father and elder brother are working in Saudi Arabia without a valid work permit there," he said.

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